Action plan for remote villae electrification project

*160. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of Government to help Orissa to light up remote inaccessbile villages in the State through non-conventional energy sources, *i.e.* the villages which cannot be served through grid-power;

(b) the total number of villages in the State that have been identified for electrification under the Remote Village Electrification project (RVE); and

(c) the time-frame within which all such villages would be lighted-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A Programme is being implemented by the Ministry for providing financial support for electrification of those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages, in various states including Orissa, where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective and which are not taken up under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna. Support is provided for those remote villages/hamlets which are identified by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for coverage through non-conventional energy sources. Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the costs, subject to pre-specified maximum amounts for each technology, is provided for projects approved under the programme.

(b) REC has identified 1018 remote villages for coverage under the Remote Village Electrification Programme. These have been identified out of the initial lists of sch villages provided by the State government. However, the state government has now informed that only 221 villages out of these are likely to be covered under the Programme as the remainng 797 villages are being taken up for electrification through grid extension.

(c) The primary responsibility for timely implmentation of the projects vests with the state notified implementing agencies. The Ministry has already sanctioned support for coverage of 197 villages for which proposals have been received from the state. The Ministry has been persuading the state for early finalization of the lists of remote villages so that support for these could be sanctioned under the programme. Further progress will depend upon the finalization of the list by the state, its verification by REC and submission of proposals by the state.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Policy for food processing

932. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARITYA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the State Governments to evolve a separate policy for food processing;